REMARKS

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication that the previous response successfully traversed the rejection of the pending claims as being anticipated by Bell (USP 6,832,319).   In that regard, the pending claims are now rejected as being obvious over the Bell in view of Ueda (USP 6,289,102). However, Ueda's random number generator uses a seed derived from the storage medium. In particular, as discussed for example with regard to Ueda's Figure 1, each Ueda disk includes a "scramble information" area that determines the scramble method used to encode the user data in the data recording area. An exemplary scramble information representation is shown in Figure 2a, which shows the scramble information to be a two-bit code that identifies one of four "initial value" tables 0 through 3. The resulting initial value is used as the seed to a shift register to generate the random number as discussed with regard to Figure 9c. Thus, the disk provides the key to the random number. In that regard, Ueda is similar to Bell in that a Bell player generates the "media key" using the media key block as shown in Figure 6 of Bell.

In sharp contrast, the claimed method generates a random number using a seed from a non-volatile memory such as a flash memory as discussed, for example, on page 3, lines 17-21. Thus, claim 1 has support for the limitation of "generating a pseudo-random number within the data storage engine using a seed from a non-volatile memory." This is much more secure than either Bell or Ueda, which require key generation using information freely available to any disk player that can read the Bell or Ueda disk. In contrast, a hacker may read a disk encrypted as set forth in claim 1 to their heart's content but never has access to the "how" of the random number generation. Accordingly, claim 1 and its dependent claims are allowable over the combination of the Bell and Ueda references.

Because claims 14 and 20 have been amended analogously as discussed with regard to claim 1, claims 14 and 20 and their dependent claims are also allowable over the Bell and Ueda references.

The Silverbrook reference (USP 6,334,190) does nothing to cure the deficiencies of the Bell and Ueda references. Thus, the pending claims are allowable over the cited prior art.

CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, pending Claims 1 – 2, and 6 – 21 are in condition for allowance and allowance of the application is hereby solicited. If the Examiner has any questions or concerns, a telephone call to the undersigned at (949) 752-7040 is welcomed and encouraged.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is facsimile transmitted to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, at 571-273-8300, on September 8, 2006.

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Jonathan W. Hallman

September 8, 2006
Date of Signature

Respectfully submitted,

Jonathan W. Hallman
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 42,622

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